However, the District-wise information in respect of sanctioning of projects in not maintained centrally.

(c) Under this Programme, the KVIC provides one time margin money assistance at the rate of 25% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and for the project above Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs. 25 lakhs rate of margin money is 25% of Rs. 10 lakhs plus 10% on remaining cost of the project. In the case of weaker sections *viz.* SC/ST/ Women/Physically Handicapped/Ex-Servicemen and Minority Community beneficiary/institution and for hill border and tribal areas, North Eastern Region, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep, the margin money grant is 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs but above this amount and upto Rs. 25 lakhs it is 10% of the remaining cost of the project. The beneficiary is required to invest his own contribution of 10% of the project cost. In case of SC/ST and other weaker sections, beneficiary's contribution is 5% of the project cost. This scheme is being implemented through Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and on selective basis through Cooperative Banks and Private Sector Scheduled Commercial Banks. The Banks provide the balance funds for the projects as a term loan. As far as present status of such projects/industries is concerned the Government does not maintain any data on the commercial operations of such industries.

Potentiality of Agro-Based Rural Industires in NE States

1905. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied potentiality of the agro-based rural industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any plan to bring the potentiality into reality?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) to (c) A High Power Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri K.C. Pant, Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission to suggest suitable measures for

strengthening the Khadi and Village Industries sector with a view to make the sector viable and vibrant in the new era of globalisation. Based on the recommendations made by the Committee, a package for KVI Sector was announced by the Government on 14.05.2001. The package consists of Rebate Policy for five years, option of Rebate and Market Development Assistance (MDA), Insurance cover to Khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of Khadi products, creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development etc.

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre

1906. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scientists working in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre at Mumbai;

(b) the annual expenditure of this institute;

(c) the objective of this organization; and

(d) the contribution of these scientists to improve quality of life of average Indian?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) 4126 Scientists are working in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Bombay (Mumbai).

(b) The average annual expenditure (Plan and Non-Plan) of BARC during the last three years is Rs. 542.87 crore.

(c) In addition to the R&D work towards national security, BARC is responsible to develop nuclear science and technology needed for India's electricity requirements and also for application of radioisotopes and radiation technology for health, agriculture and food preservation, hydrology and industry.

(d) In short, the primary objective of BARC research is to work for the energy security as well as security of food and health care of the people, through radioisotope and radiation technology.